

Analytical table of contents

The book is divided into four main sections.

- **Section One** is introductory: it covers the scope and special features of psychiatric ethics (Chapter 1) and some of the main ways of reasoning about ethical problems (Chapter 2).
- **Section Two** is the longest section: it includes case histories taken from each of the main stages of the clinical encounter — basic concepts (Chapter 3), diagnosis (Chapter 4), aetiology (Chapter 5), treatment (Chapter 6), prognosis (Chapter 7), and teamwork and the organization of services (Chapter 8).
- **Section Three** looks at the practical applications of the case materials of Section II, in teaching (Chapter 9) and in writing/reviewing research ethics applications (Chapter 10).
- **Section Four** offers two overviews — of psychiatry in an international context (Chapter 11) and of the importance of psychiatric ethics for our understanding of good practice in medicine generally (Chapter 12).
- **Appendix** gives a glossary and guide to the legal cases referred to in the text.

SECTION ONE Introduction: the tools of the trade

This section outlines the scope of psychiatric ethics as both a practical and a theoretical discipline (Chapter 1). It then introduces the main ideas from ethical theory that will be used in the rest of the book (Chapter 2).

Chapter 1 Theory and practice: the special features of psychiatric ethics

The special features of psychiatric ethics are introduced. Psychiatric ethics is shown to be wider in scope than traditional bioethics, issues of value (as well as fact) arising in psychopathology and diagnosis as well as in treatment choice. It is also deeper philosophically in that it includes general philosophical problems such as personal identity, rationality, and determinism. Psychiatry is thereby no less scientific than other areas of medicine. Indeed, the proper role of ethics in psychiatry is to facilitate rather than frustrate good science. But what all this amounts to is that clinical problem solving in psychiatric ethics requires even sharper thinking skills than in other areas of bioethics.

